

July 3, 1959

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Dear Peter:

It was good to hear from you and to be reminded of the very stimulating time we did have during this past "conference season."

I think your presentation is a very fair one and there is certainly nothing in it that I would take any exception to. My personal conclusion that the "single vertebrate lymphoid cell does not contain enough genetic information" is a very tentative one and I would put more importance on having the issue raised than on predicting one or another outcome. Talmage, in his paper which accompanies mine in the recent June 19th issue of SCIENCE, leans in somewhat the same direction. I hope you will have a chance to see these papers which should be arriving in London just about now.

Even at the possible cost of some loss in clarity, I went to some pains to point out some of the alternative versions of the somatic mutation theory. If I had to write the paper over again, I think I would not have done this so parenthetically but rather made a more coherent account as a separate chapter.

After reading your final phrase, "is logically entailed" I went to the dictionary to look up the word entail which, especially as a participle, has a narrow legal connotation. I found in Webster's, "to impose or involve as a necessary accompaniment or result; often with an implication of inconvenience, expense or trouble." Perhaps you did have this in mind!

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg

P.S.

I have to admit that many of the theoretical issues in this problem have become clearer in my own mind during the past six months. I'm thinking about sending an addendum similar to the enclosure along with the reprints of the SCIENCE paper in hopes of clarifying some of the obscurities. You know it was your reluctance to speculate about the mechanism of tolerance at the Gatlinberg Symposium that stimulated me to think about the question and I must say what a pleasure it has been to find this common ground

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in our interests. I was quite struck by the recent paper of Schwartz and Dameshek in NATURE, June 13, and how much more simply one can interpret their results in terms of the selection theory.

Encl.